far been given telephone connections: and

(b) what is the number of village Panchayats in the country that are without these facilities and by when these will get these facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 4313 upto 31.3-1992.

(b) 1,60,545 as on 31-3-1992. This facility is proposed to be extended to these villages by 31st March, 1995, subject to availability of resources.

Payment of HRA at Special Rates at Pauri, U.P.

129. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basis for the special order issued in 1978 under which House Rent Allowance at Special rates at certain Hill Stations like Nainital, Mussourie, Pithoragarh and Tehri, was granted;

(b) whether the case of Pauri is under consideration to grant House Rent Allowance under similar special orders of 1978;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that Pauri (U.P.) like Nainital and Mussourie, has also been declared as tourist centre in October, 1991; and

(f) if so, the reasons for denial of HRA to the Central Government employees of Pauri at 'C' class rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The special orders of 1978 for grant of HRA to Central Government employees posted in certain Hill stations were issued on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee of National Council (JCM), comprising members from both Official Side and Staff Side.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The Fourth Central Pay Commission have not made any recommendations for grant of HRA in any Hill Station which does not fulfil the population criteria. Pauri does not qualify for classification as a 'C' class city, since the population in its Municipal area is less than 50,000, as per the 1981 Census.

(e) The Central Government has no policy to declare any place as a Tourist Centre.

(f) A place being a tourist Centre is not a criteria for its classification for the purpose of HRA.

Bank Turnover and Number of Employees

130. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the turnover of the public sector banks and its percentage growth since 1989-90 to 1991-92; and

(b) the number of employees of different category/levels and their percentage growth during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Banks generally judge their business with reference to the level of working funds. The aggregate amounts of working funds of the public sector banks in so far as their domestic operations are concerned and the

percentage growth therein, for the years ended March 1989, 1990 and 1991 as reported by Reserve Bank of India, are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year ended	working funds	Percentage growth
March, 1989	167167	
March, 1990	197102	17·9
March, 1991	225738	14·5

(b) The number of bank employees as on 31st March, 1989, 1990 and 1991 as intimated by Reserve Bank of India and the percentage growth therein are indicated below:

Category of employees	(Number of Employees) As on 31st March			Percentage growth	
	1989	1990	1991	1990	1991
Officers	216457	222727	227980	2·9	2·4
Clerks	438714	445967	446767	1·7	0·2
Sub-staff	179466	187719	187650	4·6	—0·04
TOTAL	834637	856413	862397	2·6	0·7

Seizure of smuggled Electronic Goods

131. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of smuggled electronic goods seized during 1990-91 and during the last four months;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to check the smuggling of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The value of smuggled electronic goods seized and persons arrested during 1990-91 and last four months are as follows:—

Year	Value of Goods Seized (Rs. in crores)	No. of Persons Arrested**
1990-91	56.26	109
1-12-1991 to 31-3-92	2.90*	25*

*Provisional.

**Does not include persons arrested for smuggling in baggage cases.

(c) Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of electronic goods. Intelligence is targetted against such smuggling and field formations alerted suitably. Sophisticated equipments such as X-ray baggage machines are being increasingly used.